

Message Text

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14

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EB-07 ISO-00 DOTE-00 /018 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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UNCLAS SAN JOSE 0507

THE FOLLOWING SAN JOSE TEL ORIGINALLY TRANSMITTED ACTION TO
USDOC 16 JAN IS REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QTE

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 0232

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, ETRN, CS

SUBJECT: EARLY WARNING POSSIBLE MARKET FOR BUSES

1. COSTA RICAN MINISTER OF TRANSPORT ANNOUNCED
JANUARY 14 THAT PRIVATE COMPANY, COMPANIA METROPO-
LITANA DE TRANSPORTES, S.A. WOULD BE FORMED TO PURCHASE
30 TO 40 BUSES AND MAKE INVESTMENTS FOR PURPOSE OF
SUPPLEMENTING, BUT NOT REPLACING, PRIVATELY-
OWNED BUS COMPANIES IN SAN JOSE. NEW COMPANY WOULD
PROVIDE SERVICE DURING NON-PEAK HOURS, AND
PRESUMABLY OVER ROUTES WITH THIS TRAFFIC.

2. CORPORACION COSTARRICENSE DE DESARROLLO, S.A.
(CODESA), COSTA RICAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, WOULD OWN
NEW COMPANY, WHOSE CAPITAL OF ONE HUNDRED MILLION
COLONES (APPROXIMATELY \$11,700,000) WOULD BE
PROVIDED BY GOVERNMENT OWNED PETROLEUM REFINERY
(RECOPE) IN EQUAL AMOUNTS OVER TWO YEAR PERIOD.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF METROPOLITANA WILL BE
RODOLFO SOLANO (WHO ALSO MANAGER OF COOPESA, LOCAL
COMPANY WHICH, INTER ALIA, ASSEMBLES KNOCKED DOWN
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PEGASO BUSES FROM SPAIN). SOLANO PLANS TRIP TO

U.S., (INCLUDING WASHINGTON AND SAN FRANCISCO)
FIRST WEEK IN FEBRUARY AND REQUESTED EMBASSY'S
ASSISTANCE IN CONTACTING POTENTIAL SOURCES OF
NEW AND USED BUSES ONE POSSIBLE SOURCE WASHINGTON
AREA MIGHT BE METRO WHICH WE UNDER IMPRESSION USED
TO OPERATE SMALL (20-25 PASSENGER) BUSES IN DOWNTOWN
WASHINGTON ARE BUT NO LONGER DOES SO.

4. NOTE THAT AS PRIVATE COMPANY METROPOLITANA
NOT REQUIRED TO PURCHASE VIA PUBLIC BID BUT MAY BUY
DIRECTLY FROM SUPPLIERS.

5. APPRECIATE COMMERCE CABLING LIST OF CONTACTS FOR
SOLANO. EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE HIS DETAILED ITINERARY
WHEN AVAILABLE.

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Message Attributes

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